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The President's Daily Brief

June 17, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

June 17, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In Cambodia, Prime Minister Long Boret has announced a new cabinet. Meanwhile, evacuation of civilians from the besieged government enclave at Lovek has begun. (Page 2)

Individuals opposed to President Makarios and in favor of union of Cyprus with Greece are once again resorting to violence. (Page 3)

Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi has postponed his visit to Moscow. (Page 4)

Tribal leaders in North Yemen have finally pledged to support the new government. (Page 4)

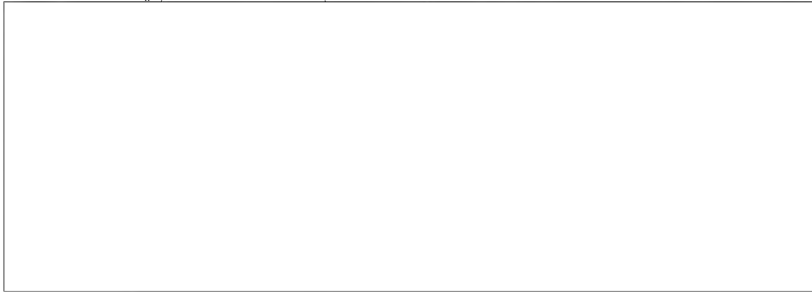
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SYRIA-FEDAYEEN

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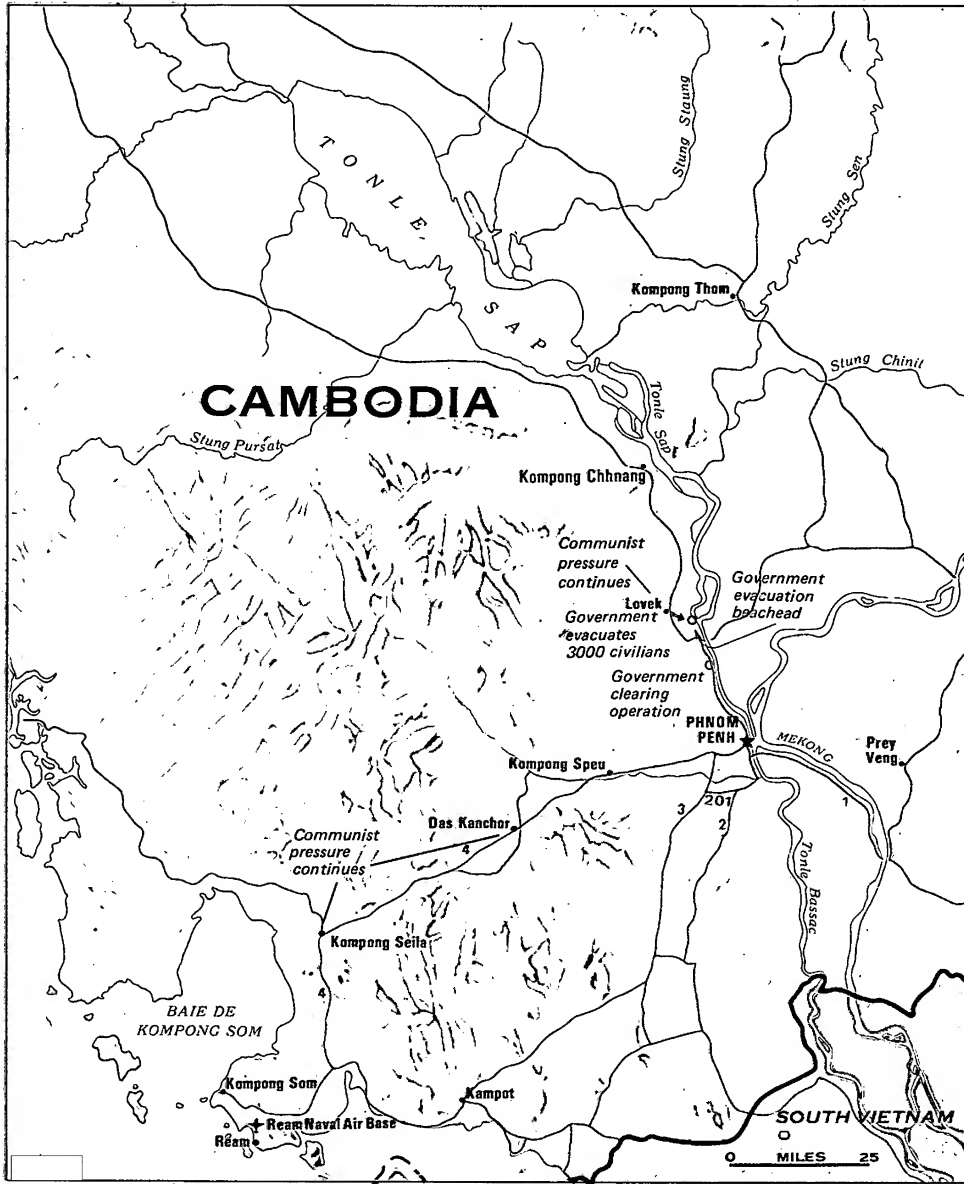


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CAMBODIA

Cambodia has a new government. The bulk of cabinet members in Prime Minister Long Boret's government announced yesterday are from President Lon Nol's Socio-Republican Party or are independents.

The key portfolios of defense and foreign affairs remain in the hands of holdovers from the previous cabinet. Boret, who took less than a week to form his new cabinet, brought in as First Vice Premier Pann Sothi, a frequent critic and troublemaker for past governments.

According to a prearranged agreement between Boret, Sirik Matak, and Lon Nol, members of Matak's Republican Party stayed out of the cabinet in return for at least one spot on the High Executive Council, the country's top policy-making body.

* * *

Evacuation of civilians from the besieged government enclave at Lovek, 25 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, has begun.

Government forces this weekend succeeded in clearing a corridor from Lovek to a beachhead on the Tonle Sap River. Approximately 3,000 civilians subsequently embarked on junks for further travel upstream to Kompong Chhnang. Khmer Communist forces thus far have offered no significant opposition to the evacuation operation. Insurgent messages, however, continue to stress the urgency of isolating and destroying Lovek--which still contains large numbers of civilians and military personnel--and its Tonle Sap beachheads. Munitions shortages and the slow arrival of reinforcements may be delaying those efforts.

Elsewhere in the Phnom Penh area, government forces continued their slow advance along Route 5 north of the capital against increasingly stiff resistance.

In southwestern Cambodia, the isolated government garrisons at Kompong Seila and Das Kanchor continue to hold out against persistent shelling attacks and ground probes. Meanwhile, government reinforcements from Kampot are en route to Kompong Som, the country's only deepwater port. The recent fall of a small outpost near Kompong Som has heightened government fears of Communist actions against the port city and the nearby naval air base at Ream.

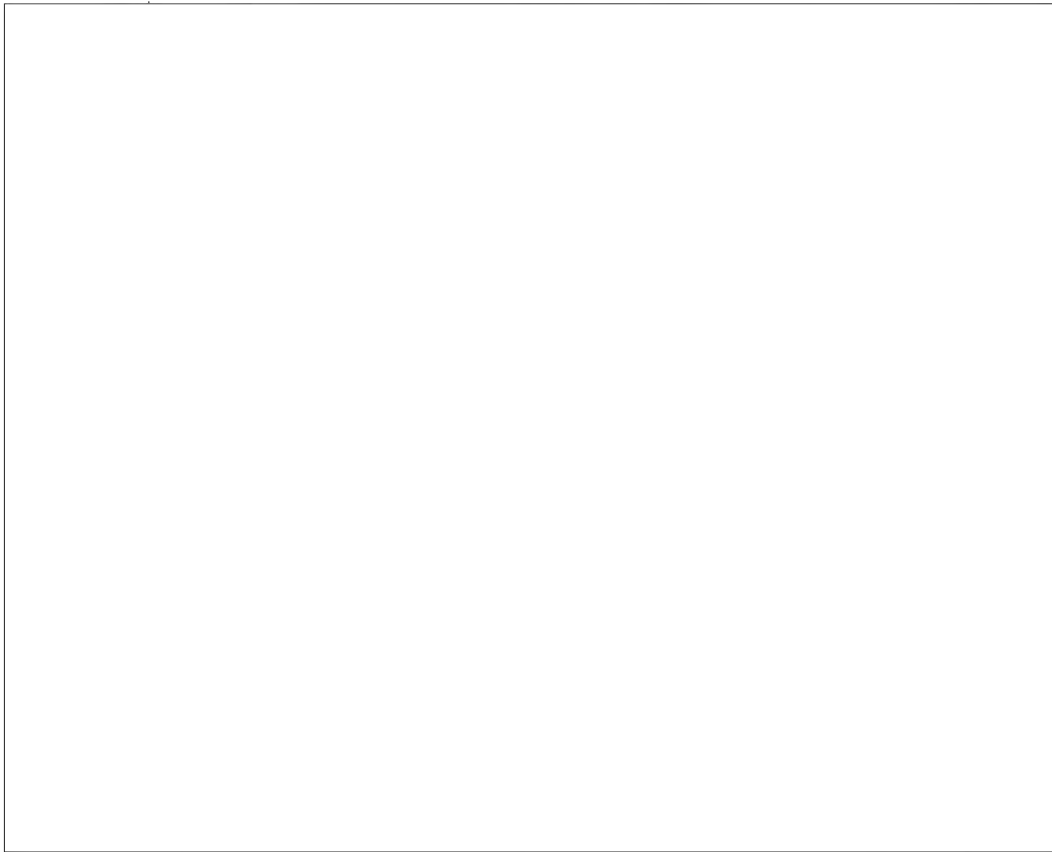
CYPRUS

Individuals opposed to President Makarios and in favor of union of the island with Greece are once again resorting to violence. There have recently been a number of bombings and a shooting incident that have been blamed on remnants of EOKA-B--the once potent and now officially outlawed opposition group formerly led by General George Grivas, who died last January.

Cypriot police forces have been arresting members of that organization, and Makarios has accused the Greek government of attempting to supply it with arms. Makarios' anger at Athens has been heightened by the open involvement of some Greek officers from the Cyprus national guard in opposition activities; he asked Athens to remove a number of these men from the island.

Cypriot national police forces probably are capable of overcoming a direct threat to Makarios' rule by opposition elements on Cyprus. Additional Greek Cypriot turmoil is likely, however, and might spill over into the Turkish Cypriot community.

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NOTES

Egypt-USSR: Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi reportedly has postponed his announced visit to Moscow to arrange an Egyptian-Soviet Summit. Akhbar al-Yawm editor Ali Amin, a leading Cairo columnist, reported on June 15 that the trip would be postponed at least a month because Fahmi intends to visit West Germany, Romania, and the US during July.

North Yemen: Colonel Hamdi is now in full control of the country. On Saturday, tribes that had earlier threatened to occupy the capital pledged their support of Hamdi's Command Council. Important tribal groups subsidized by Saudi Arabia, led by Sheikh al-Ahmar, the head of the dissolved consultative assembly, fell into line shortly after the Saudis announced their support for the new North Yemeni leadership. South Yemen thus far shows no sign of trying to influence the new situation in the north.

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